What is claimed is:

1. A random number generation apparatus comprising: pick-up means,

digital image conversion means for converting into a digital image a pick-up signal output from said pick-up means,

storage means for storing said digital image as pixel values, and

random number generating means for extracting a digital data from pixel values of a plurality of pixels in said digital image of said pick-up signal output when no subject is present from said pick-up means stored in said storage means and generating a random number from said digital data correlated to said plurality of pixels.

2. A random number generating apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said pixel values are expressed by 2 or more bits, and

said random number generating means extracts as said digital data binary data of the least significant bits of a bit string expressing said pixel values and generates a random number from said binary data correlated to said plurality of pixels.

3. A random number generating apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said digital image is a binary image in which said pixel values are expressed as 1-bit binary data, and

said random number generating means extracts said binary data as said digital

data and generates a random number from said binary data correlated to said plurality of pixels.

- 4. A random number generating apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said random number generating means extracts said digital data from pixels values of a plurality of pixels constituting a predetermined area within said digital image.
- 5. A random number generating apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said random number generating apparatus extracts said digital data from pixel values of said plurality of pixels at an arbitrary position within said digital image.
- 6. A random number generating apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said apparatus is provided in an encryption block for generating an encryption key according to said random number or generating an encryption key according to a data obtained from said random number.
- 7. A random number generating apparatus as claimed in Claim 6, wherein said encryption block employs the RSA encryption method for generating said encryption key according to two prime numbers and generates said two prime numbers according to said random number generated by said random number generating means, so that said two prime numbers are used for generating said encryption key.

- 8. A random number generating apparatus as claimed in Claim 6, wherein said apparatus further comprises custody means for keeping said encryption key in custody.
- 9. A random number generating apparatus as claimed in Claim 6, wherein said apparatus has said encryption block and is provided in an individual identification apparatus according to said digital image correlated to a subject picked up by said pick-up means stored in said storage means,

said individual identification apparatus performing an encryption of a plain text using said encryption key by said encryption block when a desired individual is identified.

- 10. A random number generating apparatus as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said subject is a fingerprint constituting a living body information.
- 11. A random number generating method comprising steps of converting into a digital image a pick-up signal output from pick-up means when no subject is present,

extracting a digital data from pixel values of a plurality of pixels in said digital image, and

generating a random number from the digital data correlated to said plurality of pixels.

12. A random number generating method as claimed in Claim 11, wherein said pixel values are expressed by two or more bits, and

a binary data of the least significant bit of a bit string expressing said pixel values is extracted as said digital data, so that a random number is generated from said binary data correlated to said plurality of pixels.

13. A random number generating method as claimed in Claim 11, wherein said digital image is a binary image in which said pixel values are expressed as 1-bit binary data, and

said binary data is extracted as said digital data, so that a random number is generated from said binary data correlated to said plurality of pixels.

- 14. A random number generating method as claimed in Claim 11, wherein said digital data is extracted from pixel values of a plurality of pixels constituting a predetermined area within said digital image.
- 15. A random number generating method as claimed in Claim 11, wherein said digital data is extracted from pixel values of said plurality of pixels at an arbitrary

position within said digital image.

- 16. A random number generating method as claimed in Claim 11, said method being used in an encryption method for generating an encryption key according to said random number or according to a data obtained from said random number.
- 17. A random number generating method as claimed in Claim 16, wherein said encryption method is the RSA encryption method for generating said encryption key and said two prime numbers are generated according to said random number so that said two prime numbers are used for generating said encryption key.
- 18. A random number generating method as claimed in Claim 16, wherein in said encryption method, said encryption key is kept in custody within the apparatus which performs the encryption according to said encryption method.
- 19. A random number generating method as claimed in Claim 16, wherein in said encryption method, a plain text is encrypted by said encryption key when a desired individual is identified according to said digital image correlated to a subject picked up by said pick-up means.

20. A random number generating method as claimed in Claim 19, wherein said subject is a fingerprint constituting a living body information.